



Decision Memo
Three Mile Creek Seismograph Station
Logan Ranger District, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
Cache County, UT
January 2020

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document details my decision regarding the proposal from the University of Utah Seismograph Stations (UUSS) to install a seismograph station adjacent to the Three Mile Creek road (FSR 20219) for the purpose of monitoring seismic activity in the area and integrating the data within the statewide monitoring system.

Project number in the Planning, Appeals, and Litigation System database: Project number appearing in PALS is 57570.

General Location: Approximately 2.5 Miles W/NW of Mendon, UT along the Three Mile Creek road, FSR 20219. Northwest Cache County adjacent to the Wellsville Wilderness Boundary.

2.0 PROPOSED ACTION

The University of Utah Seismology department will install and maintain a seismograph station. This site was selected based on the availability of exposed bedrock for sensor placement, location relative to other stations in the area for accurate data, and line of site telemetry. Multiple sites were surveyed.

The data collected will be relayed via radio for retransmission to the data center at the University of Utah. The site will require follow up visits only in the case of equipment maintenance, and/or malfunction—relatively rare occurrences based on other sites they manage throughout the state.

This project will provide for public safety and support local economies through publicly available information about local earthquakes and earthquake hazards, as part of a network of approx. 200 seismograph stations in Utah, Wyoming and Idaho. Several stations are currently permitted on USFS lands in the same network. The proposed site was previously utilized under special use permit for the same purpose.

2.1 Design Criteria

- The station will consist of materials indicated in attachments. Enclosures consist of covered, buried culvert sections. All materials and tools for construction are hiked to the site from the closest existing road. Only hand tools are used during construction and no temporary work area(s) are needed and no new roads/trails are constructed. Construction time is 1-2 days.
- The seismograph station, once installed, needs to be surrounded by a “buck and rail” or “post and rail” wooden fence to keep out cattle grazing permitted in the area, and to blend in with the character of the landscape.
- All tools and equipment **MUST** be washed and clear of debris prior to being transported onto FS lands in order to prevent the spread of noxious and invasive weeds.

- Off-road motor travel is prohibited.
- Seasonal road closures may be in effect. Coordinate installation dates with your assigned special use permit administrator.

3.0 DECISION AND RATIONALE

My decision is to authorize the proposed action along with the required design criteria as described in section 2, above.

Based on environmental analysis and input from an interdisciplinary team of Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest resource specialists, I have determined that this action may be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement. In particular, this action falls under **Category 6: Approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses of NFS lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land. 36 CFR 220.6(e)(3).**

We consider resource conditions when determining whether extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action exist that warrant further analysis and documentation in an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement. As per Chapter 30, Section 31.2 of Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, the mere presences of one or more of these resource conditions does not preclude use of a categorical exclusion. I have concluded that there are no extraordinary circumstances related to the decision that may result in a significant individual or cumulative environmental effect.

4.0 SCOPING

Project scoping consisted of project review, guidance and approval by the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest Interdisciplinary Team of land management specialists. Project is also posted on the PALS database, #57570.

5.0 FOREST PLAN AND LEGAL CONSISTENCY

The seismograph station serves a public need for research and public safety, as stated in Lands and Special Uses Desired Future Conditions in the Wasatch-Cache Revised Forest Plan (4-10), "Special use authorizations...serve public needs." Additionally, prescription 3.2u emphasizes sustaining and/or recovering desired plant and animal species and/or communities through vegetation composition, structure, and pattern needed for life cycle stages, through reducing potential impacts to these key habitat elements.

I find that the proposed action is fully consistent with the Revised Forest Plan Wasatch-Cache National Forest, as well as in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and policies. Specifically; the National Forest Management Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended; Clean Water Act; Congressional designated areas such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or National Recreation Areas; Inventoried Roadless Areas; Research Natural Areas; Native American religious or cultural sites, archaeological sites, or historical properties or areas; Migratory Bird Treaty Act; Environmental Justice (Executive Order 12898).

6.0 OBJECTION OPPORTUNITIES AND IMPLEMENTATION

My decision is not subject to administrative appeal or objection, as outlined in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 and the Agricultural Act of 2014. This decision may be implemented immediately.

7.0 CONTACT PERSON

For additional information about the project, contact project lead, Larry Framme, 801-999-2155, larry.framme@usda.gov.



Jennefer Parker
District Ranger
Logan Ranger District

2/6/2020
Date

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